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Items for discussion and decision: International Comparison Programme

International Comparison Programme

Note by the Secretary-General

The Statistical Commission will have before it a report prepared by the World Bank on behalf of the Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme on the status of preparations for the 2011 round of the programme. The report also includes a description of the institutional and partnership arrangements for the implementation of the programme at the regional level as well as the overall timetable. The Commission may wish to review the progress with respect to the preparations for the 2011 round and to express its views on the workplan and the timetable. Points for discussion are included in paragraphs 52 and 53.

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Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme

I. Introduction

1. The International Comparison Programme is a worldwide statistical initiative aimed to estimate purchasing power parities to be used as currency converters to compare the performance of economies around the world. The 2005 programme was its largest round to date, covering 146 economies from five geographic regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Latin America and Western Asia, and the countries of the regular purchasing power parity programme managed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).

2. Following its successful completion of the 2005 round, the United Nations Statistical Commission, at its thirty-ninth session, requested the World Bank to host the Global Office and take on the global programme coordination of the 2011 round, which the World Bank accepted. Following evaluation of the International Comparison Programme by the Friends of the Chair, the Statistical Commission, at its fortieth session, endorsed the 2011 round of the programme. Significant progress has been made in preparing for the 2011 round since the fortieth session of the Commission. During this period, the governance structure of the programme was put in place: the Global Manager was hired in April 2009, and the new Global Office was established. The Executive Board, the Technical Advisory Group and the regional coordinating bodies were set up, and they held their first meetings in September and October 2009.

3. While the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme will leverage on the successful implementation of the 2005 round, its scope will be further extended.

4. The present report provides information on the status of the International Comparison Programme in terms of the implementation of the governance framework adopted by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session and the objectives and time frame of the programme (see E/2009/24, chap. I, sect. B). It will be designed to enhance the robustness of purchasing power parity estimates through greater adherence to the *System of National Accounts* and the improvement of price survey methodologies, as well as to encourage additional research activities. The report also includes a brief review of the preparations for the 2011 round in the various regions. The Commission may wish to comment on the preparations to date and on the direction the programme is taking in order to ensure its effectiveness and longer term sustainability.

II. Implementation of the governance framework and financial status

A. International Comparison Programme framework

5. The main elements of the 2011 International Comparison Programme governance framework were endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session, held in February 2009. This framework was later expanded to serve as the reference document for the institutional set-up of the programme and the partnership arrangements between the Global Office and OECD-Eurostat as well the regional organizations, who are expected to coordinate activities at the regional level.

6. At its fortieth session, the Commission approved a governance structure for the programme that includes an Executive Board, a Global Office led by a Global Manager, a Technical Advisory Group and regional implementing agencies. It also confirmed that the World Bank would continue to host the Global Office of the International Comparison Programme. The roles of those various bodies are detailed in the International Comparison Programme governance framework, which formalizes the status of the Executive Board and the Technical Advisory Group and defines their respective terms of reference. The framework specifies the role of the Global Office and its reporting requirements to the Statistical Commission. It also defines the working relationship of the Global Office with the Development Data Group in the World Bank, and underlines the strengthened authority of the Global Manager of the programme.

B. International Comparison Programme Executive Board

7. The International Comparison Programme Executive Board held its first meeting for the 2011 round on 14 October 2009, in Washington, D.C. It is set up as the primary decision-making and strategic body of the programme and is ultimately accountable to the Statistical Commission for the implementation of the 2011 round. The Executive Board will provide annual status reports to the Commission. The membership of the Board was reviewed and approved by the Bureau of the Statistical Commission before invitations to the meeting were sent out. The membership consists of representatives from key organizations involved with the work of the programme: Eurostat, OECD, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations Statistics Division and all regional coordinating agencies, as well as representatives of countries participating in the programme, and countries providing assistance to regional and global programmes. The composition of the Board aims to reflect global diversity and the views of different stakeholder groups, as well as balance across the regions. Members represent their respective organizations. A list of the members of the Executive Board is set out in annex I.

C. Global management of the International Comparison Programme

8. Under the direction of the Global Manager of the programme, the Global Office will carry out the day-to-day work required to implement the programme at the international level. This includes overall coordination and implementation of the programme and overall leadership and coordination to guide the regional

programmes and ensure that procedures and methods are consistent. The activities of the Global Office are financed mainly from the programme's Global Trust Fund, in accordance with World Bank rules and regulations, and the internal World Bank budget.

9. The Global Manager is a World Bank staff member who reports to the Director of the World Bank Development Data Group. On matters related to the execution and implementation of the International Comparison Programme, its policies, priorities and standards, the Global Manager will act within the directives provided by the Executive Board.

10. The programme's Technical Advisory Group held its first 2011 round meeting in October 2009, in Washington, D.C., with the objective of discussing methodological issues aimed at ensuring the quality and reliability of the 2011 programme results. The members of the Group stressed the need to build on lessons learned from the 2005 programme, resolved to provide technical guidance on the improvements and innovations envisioned in the new round, and agreed on the research agenda of the programme. A list of the members of the Technical Advisory Group is set out in annex II.

D. Regional coordinating agencies

11. The regional coordinators and representatives of the OECD-Eurostat purchasing power parity programme met in Washington, D.C., in September 2009. They agreed on the principles and ways of enhancing collaboration between the regions and the Global Office, set the objectives for the 2011 round, addressed the main methodological issues, identified the main work areas, reached an understanding on data transmission and sharing and reviewed the calendar of activities. A list of the representatives of the regional coordinating agencies and of the OECD-Eurostat is set out in annex III.

E. Financial status

12. The anticipated total cost to carry out the activities of the International Comparison Programme 2011 round at the global level, which covers the Global Office costs and support to some regional programmes, is estimated to be approximately $12 million. Targeted sources for funding include the World Bank budget, the interim International Comparison Programme trust fund, an existing Islamic Development Bank trust fund, a new International Comparison Programme trust fund and pledges from donors. A strategy for fund-raising is being followed and includes reaching out to key user and stakeholder agencies to seek financial or in-kind contributions.

13. At the regional level, potential sources for funding include contributions from the budgets of the regional agencies, trust funds housed and managed by regional agencies, and contributions from participating countries.

III. Objectives of the 2011 International Comparison Programme and time frame

14. As further elaborated below, the main objectives of the 2011 International Comparison Programme are to:

(a) Broaden the scope of the programme;

(b) Better address users' needs;

(c) Enhance the programme's economic relevance by building on the assets of the previous round and through innovations and continuous improvements in the programme's methodologies;

(d) Enhance programme-related statistical capacity-building activities;

(e) Increase data quality and reliability and make the International Comparison Programme a transparent process.

A. Scope of the 2011 round

15. The 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme will leverage on the successful implementation of the 2005 round, which, based on a concerted effort by international and national statistical agencies, was better planned, managed and coordinated than previous rounds. The Global Office will work to broaden the scope of the programme, streamline the quality assessment processes, improve the economic relevance of purchasing power parity statistics, ensure the sustainability of purchasing power parity deliveries, and enhance statistical capacity-building activities related to the generation of basic data of the programme with a specific focus on price statistics and the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 1993/2008*.

16. In addition to the 146 countries that participated in the 2005 round, the programme will plan to include additional countries from Africa, Latin America and Western Asia as well as smaller countries from the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands regions. All in all, the International Comparison Programme is expected to comprise approximately 170 participating countries.

B. Meeting users' needs

17. A main objective of the programme is to effectively reach out to users. An outreach strategy will address the specific needs of national users and regional and international organizations as well as academia and the private sector. The users' conference recommended by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session will be organized around the World Statistics Day on 20 or 21 October 2010 as the apex event of the outreach programme. The conference is expected to bring together the international organizations, national organizations, private multinationals and universities that are the major users of International Comparison Programme statistics, as well as a wide variety of potential users interested in sectoral systems of the collection, retrieval, management and analysis of data (prices, costs, expenditures) on global services and operations.

C. Building on the assets of the 2005 round of the International Comparison Programme

18. The 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme will build on the main resources derived from the previous round, with improvements where necessary. These are: (a) the lists of products from household consumption, health, education, government compensation, as well as machinery and equipment, used in the price surveys; (b) the list of specifications developed to link regions into the global comparison; (c) the knowledge base containing the International Comparison Programme Handbook that provides the theoretical and methodological framework for the programme, the International Comparison Programme Operational Manual, which supplements the Handbook, and various research papers on a wide spectrum of issues relevant to the programme; (d) a family of software tools that were developed to rationalize, automate and streamline various processes of the programme; (e) policies on data confidentiality, access by researchers (procedures were agreed upon to maintain data confidentiality, yet also provide researchers with access to unpublished data for more in-depth analysis); and (f) capacity-building in terms of experience gained by the global, regional and national organizations on collecting, validating and processing prices.

D. Improvements and innovations

19. Innovations and improvements are being developed to further the attainment of the five key objectives of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme.

20. The main innovations are: (a) the development of a comprehensive outreach strategy; (b) the preparation and implementation of a quality assurance framework; (c) the elaboration of a statistical capacity-building strategy; (d) the preparation and publishing of a book entitled "Measuring the Size of the World Economy"; (e) the development of a national accounts framework for the programme that will be implemented using specifically defined guidelines of activities; (f) a system of economic validation of price and expenditure data that will be implemented together with statistical validation methods that proved effective in 2005; (g) a new method to compute global purchasing power parities; and (h) continuous improvements in the programme's methodologies.

21. Improvements will relate mainly to survey frameworks and instruments for price surveys on the main household consumption products, education and health services, compensation of government employees, and machinery and equipment. The survey framework for household consumption prices will be reviewed to enhance the quality and consistency of household survey data and better delineate urban and rural areas wherever applicable, as well as to improve spatial pricing and georeferencing sampled outlets. A core set of data required for poverty purposes will be identified and included in the relevant price surveys. Moreover, the method to link the regions and the OECD-Eurostat purchasing power parities into global results will change from the ring approach used in 2005 to a core list approach, whereby all countries will be requested to include a common set of products in their list of products to be surveyed. The research agenda recommended by the International Comparison Programme Technical Advisory Group should also result in additional improvements in the survey, validation and computation processes.

22. In addition to the above, the issue of consistency in time and space analysis of purchasing power parities will be furthered in the 2011 round of the programme. Pilot exercises are under way in Asia and Africa using 2005 prices as benchmarks and compiling purchasing power parities for 2009 on the basis of a reduced version of the 2005 list of products.

E. Statistical capacity-building

23. The experiences in the 2005 round of the International Comparison Programme were fruitful and successful in most regions, as the results of the programme provided a crucial information base for research in comparative analysis and policymaking in relevant economic areas. They also served as capacity-building platforms in the areas of prices and national accounts statistics. It is expected that more substantial benefits will be derived from the 2011 exercise by mainstreaming the activities of the programme through national strategies aimed at enhancing the infrastructure of national statistical systems. Other capacity-building activities will include the development of training modules, the organization of training sessions at the regional and country levels on the various International Comparison Programme methods, as well as partnership with universities and statistical training centres in each region of the world, with a view to ensuring that the programme's theory and methods are included in their curricula. Also, a book on purchasing power parity theory, methodologies and computation processes will be prepared, and the International Comparison Programme website is being revamped to better serve as a repository of knowledge resources of the programme and as a research window.

F. Time frame

24. The International Comparison Programme's timetable spans from 2009 to 2013 and comprises four main stages. The first stage includes administrative and institutional arrangements. It started with the implementation of the recommendations made by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session about the governance framework (hiring of the Global Manager, establishing the Global Office at the World Bank, initiating the partnership with OECD and Eurostat, securing country participation and deciding on regional coordination arrangements; forming the Technical Advisory Group and the Executive Board, and fund-raising and advocacy for the programme). While fund-raising and advocacy efforts continue throughout the programme's lifespan, the other activities in this stage are expected to be completed in or about March 2010.

25. The second stage relates to methodological preparations for the various components of the programme. This stage started in April 2009 and will be broadly completed by the end of June 2010. However, some pilot surveys are scheduled for the third and fourth quarters of 2010.

26. The third stage consists of undertaking national accounts activities (from mid-2010 to the end of the third quarter of 2013) and conducting price surveys. The main price survey on household goods and services will take place in all countries throughout 2011, except for small countries, which, following a recommendation made by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session, will collect information on prices in 2012. Other price surveys (education, health, compensation of

government employees, equipment and construction) will be carried out concomitantly with the compilation of relevant data on expenditures from early 2011 to the end of 2012.

27. The fourth stage includes the preparation of preliminary and final reports by regional coordinating offices and the Global Office. It is expected that the final global results will be obtained by December 2013 and that the electronic and physical reports will be released from two to six months later.

IV. Compliance with the System of National Accounts

A. Designing the national accounts framework for the International Comparison Programme

28. The *System of National Accounts* is, by the nature of the International Comparison Programme, the reference framework for the determination of purchasing power parities. This entails specifying the detailed International Comparison Programme requirements for national accounts data, the major uses of that data and possible methods of estimating detailed data for those countries that do not compile their accounts at the level required for the programme. Those requirements will be useful to all countries, whether they are implementing the *System of National Accounts* for the first time, improving their national accounts, upgrading the coverage of their accounts (in particular by producing expenditure-based gross domestic product (GDP) estimates for the first time), or reviewing their national accounts to meet all the standards of the *System of National Accounts 1993*. The Global Office is developing the above in the form of an International Comparison Programme-related national accounts framework, under which expenditure values will be compiled. Relevant series of sequenced activities are being defined, which national accountants in those countries participating in the programme whose national accounts systems are not highly developed will carry out to compile detailed GDP expenditures consistently with prices collected in the programme's surveys. It is worth underlining that the 2011 International Comparison Programme will use the *System of National Accounts 1993* because the vast majority of countries will still be implementing that version of the system in 2011. The sequenced activities mentioned above will be customized according to whether a particular country is still using an older version or has already migrated to the *System of National Accounts 2008*.

B. Consistency between gross domestic product expenditures and survey prices

29. The dual approach, on the one hand, of using national accounts to review surveyed prices and, on the other hand, of reviewing expenditure values in the light of those prices, is meant to increase the quality and reliability of both types of data. Relevant dual validation processes will be described in the International Comparison Programme quality assurance framework being developed by the Global Office.

V. Price survey methodologies and research agenda

A. Linking the regions: the core list approach

30. From lessons learned from the previous round of the International Comparison Programme in 2005, the 2011 round will depart from the ring method that was used to link purchasing power parities from the OECD-Eurostat programme with International Comparison Programme regional parities into global parities. A core list approach will be implemented instead. A core list of products will be included in each regional list as well as in the lists for OECD-Eurostat surveys. This will facilitate the process of linking the regions and the OECD-Eurostat programme to the world. The proposed process for building the core list and the regional lists is iterative and involves close collaboration among the Global Office, regional coordinators, OECD-Eurostat and the countries. There will be a core list for each type of price data collection. As was already recommended and implemented in 2005, the structured product description approach will be used to describe the products to be included in the lists.

B. Education and health services

31. The International Comparison Programme is investigating a methodology that will cover private and public education and health services within the programme's framework. For this, new partnerships are being sought with targeted departments in the World Bank and external organizations that can provide technical advice. While seeking to pursue research in those areas, the programme's Global Office will improve on the survey instruments related to the methods used for the 2005 round. The relevant processes for deriving purchasing power parities for education will be examined by national accounts experts in order to ensure consistency between expenditures and prices.

C. Gross capital formation

32. The International Comparison Programme 2005 methodology related to machinery and equipment will be implemented with significant improvements, namely: a core list of items will be developed; the 2005 specifications will be revised to provide an updated list for 2011; the Global Office will ensure bridging between the lists of OECD-Eurostat and the programme; and a component costs method will be used as a price validation tool for machinery and equipment. As for construction and civil engineering, a review of existing methods is being carried out with a view to improving data collection in countries and the link with OECD-Eurostat and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

D. Research agenda

33. The list of methodological areas that require specific research studies includes: the treatment of owner-occupied housing; the treatment of financial services; the measurement of government outputs; problems associated with the review of survey frameworks; the treatment of exports and imports; the adjustment of household

consumption data for net purchases abroad; the representativity problem; the aggregation of global purchasing power parities; the price averaging process; purchasing power parity-based poverty analysis; and the backcasting methodology in terms of handling revisions of purchasing power parities.

VI. Data management and quality assurance

A. Data-processing resources

34. For the International Comparison Programme 2011, a suite of software modules will be identified and developed, where necessary. This will include software modules developed at the regional and global levels, such as the price collection tool developed in Asia, the SEMPER in Africa and tools used in the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as the Eurostat tool for Standardized Product Descriptions. The Global Office will enlist the support of all major stakeholders inside the World Bank and in regional and subregional coordinating agencies, and build consensus on the nature and role of the software tools to be designed.

B. Quality assurance

35. A three-tier International Comparison Programme quality assurance framework is being developed. The first component is comprised of a body of principles to which the programme's operations at the country, regional and global levels should adhere.

36. The second component is a three-level checklist to evaluate the quality of the work of the programme in countries, regional offices and the Global Office in terms of their adherence to the quality principles and the recommended processes. The aim of this framework is to introduce rigour, structure and a common language in the assessment of the quality of microeconomic data and aggregated results. At the national level, the price collection framework should ensure that prices collected are suitable for the calculation of annual national average prices consistent with national accounts. At the regional level, the recording system should ensure the comparability of national annual prices across the countries and the adherence to accepted procedures. At the global level, the elaboration of a global core item list for each price survey is expected to streamline and improve the computation process of global results.

37. All critical processes will be documented as part of the third component of the International Comparison Programme quality assurance framework. The documentation will include the calculation of national annual average prices, the intra-country and inter-country validation of prices and expenditure values, the specific validation of the prices of core items, the computation of regional linking factors and the aggregation of regional purchasing power parities into global results. The third component will also include an inventory of best practices and guidelines for International Comparison Programme data validation.

VII. Regional programmes

A. Africa

38. The African programme will be coordinated by the African Development Bank, which has secured the participation of 52 countries (4 more than in 2005). As part of the preparations for field activities, the item list, data-collection manuals and data validation tools will be reviewed in 2010. Preparatory work will also cover survey instruments and survey frameworks.

39. It is envisaged that the International Comparison Programme 2011 round will be conducted in Africa on the basis of subregional economic groupings. The item list will be reviewed and updated to take into consideration new products, the implementation structure of the programme and lessons learned from the 2005 round. Those lessons will also be useful for the review of data-collection manuals, especially by placing emphasis on the synergy between consumer price indices and the International Comparison Programme.

40. There will be a need for data validation tools to be reviewed and improved. Those tools include the software developed by the African Development Bank for 2005, SEMPER, which will be used for data entry, processing and intra-country data validation, for the main price survey. Data collectors and supervisors will be trained on the various survey instruments, and other preparatory activities will be conducted in the third quarter of 2010 so that data collection can start in January 2011 in compliance with the Global International Comparison Programme data-collection programme.

41. A survey framework will be elaborated for each participating country in compliance with the global International Comparison Programme requirements.

B. Asia and the Pacific

42. The preparations for the International Comparison Programme 2011 round will be initiated after the memorandum of understanding between the Asian Development Bank and the programme's Global Office has been put in place and funding has been secured. A draft memorandum of understanding is being reviewed. The International Comparison Programme in Asia for 2011 is expected to have the same governance structure as in the 2005 round comprising a regional advisory board, memorandums of understanding with participating countries, a national implementing agency and a national coordinator. Myanmar is expected to join the 23 countries that participated in 2005. The current list includes the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is not a developing member country of the Asian Development Bank and for which financing must be secured from a source other than the Asian Development Bank. In 2005, the Islamic Republic of Iran was financed by the World Bank through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific.

43. Specific fund-raising efforts must be undertaken for the Pacific Island States (with the exception of Fiji) to be able to participate in the 2011 round. Expanding the work to the Pacific Island region is important, but there are practical problems involved, including the geographic distance, countries' low levels of International

Comparison Programme expertise and statistical capacity, and financial, human resources and technical constraints.

44. Australia is willing to help the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to encourage Pacific Island States to participate. A plan will be developed accordingly, but for it to be effective there is a need for a sound conceptual approach and the agreement and collaboration of individual country statistical offices. In addition, some provision must be made for additional expert resources on the ground in each participating Pacific Island State to support and assist in data gathering as well as to provide a sound grasp of the state of the quality and coverage of local national accounts and to assist the countries in implementing the International Comparison Programme-related national accounts framework being developed by the Global Office.

45. Another important aspect in country participation is the upswing in the scope of China's participation in the programme. Whereas only 11 cities in China participated in the 2005 round, in the 2011 round, the Commissioner of the National Bureau of Statistics has informed the International Comparison Programme Executive Board that China's coverage will be nationwide.

C. Commonwealth of Independent States

46. At the meeting of the heads of statistical agencies of the countries comprising the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), held on 23 November 2009 in Moscow, it was recommended to the national statistical authorities of CIS countries that they take part in the new 2011 International Comparison Programme global round. The CIS Interstate Statistical Committee will perform the functions of regional coordinator for the 2011 round in the CIS region and advise the programme's Global Office accordingly. The Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) will act as a partner institution in coordinating the programme in the CIS region. The CIS Interstate Statistical Committee and the Rosstat will design a draft work programme describing the participation of the CIS region.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

47. The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will coordinate International Comparison Programme activities in that region, providing overall regional coordination and technical support. In the 2011 round, ECLAC is planning to extend the International Comparison Programme country coverage to 20 Latin American and 14 Caribbean countries. It is also establishing a strategy to deal with countries in the region that are members of the OECD group, namely, Chile and Mexico. The 2011 round has been widely discussed in regional and subregional forums, and although countries have not been formally invited, there is a very strong interest in participating. International Comparison Programme activities in Latin America and the Caribbean will be organized in three subregions: South America; Central America (including non-English speaking Caribbean countries); and the Caribbean. For the latter, support from the Caribbean Community and other subregional agencies is being arranged.

48. Two main challenges for the 2011 round in Latin America and the Caribbean are worth underlining. First, there is a possible conflict between the International

Comparison Programme survey period and timetables for housing and population censuses in the Caribbean. It is therefore agreed that any country that cannot implement the two programmes concomitantly will defer their International Comparison Programme surveys to 2012. Proper methods will be applied to link their data to those of other countries. Second, uncertainty regarding funding and putting in place an effective strategy to deal with the dual participation of Chile and Mexico is yet to be resolved.

E. Western Asia

49. All 14 member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) are planning and have showed willingness to participate in the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme. This includes two countries, Egypt and the Sudan, which also participate in the Africa programme. The Commission's recommendation is to maintain the existence of a regional executive board, as it proved to be a crucial element in the success of the regional implementation of the 2005 round. Also, it gives the countries stronger ownership and eases the adoption of the programme as part of their regular work programme. In the 2011 round, ESCWA is assessing the option of dividing the region into two subregional groups where more focus can be placed on data collection, validation and consistency at the subregional level. Preparations have already started subsequent to the final approval for including the implementation of the International Comparison Programme in the biennial workplan of ESCWA (2010-2011), which the Statistical Committee of the Commission approved during its meeting in October 2008. A preparatory meeting with the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank was held in July 2009 following a meeting between ESCWA and the Islamic Development Bank that was held in June 2009.

50. The main challenge is to secure sufficient funds to implement the programme at the regional level and sufficient resources and technical expertise at the national level to be dedicated to International Comparison Programme tasks. ESCWA is already contributing human resources and necessary logistics support for the coordination of the programme. Funding will be sought from potential donors.

F. Special participation issues

51. There are some country participation issues known so far that are under consideration. Two special cases can be pinpointed to the Statistical Commission to provide an example, as steps are already under way to address those issues. The first concerns countries, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, which do not belong to any of the regional coordinating agencies. As in 2005, an ad hoc solution must be explored among the countries concerned, the Global Office and a regional coordinating office that would be in a position to host them on an exceptional basis. The same is true for Georgia, which was once a member of CIS and participated in the International Comparison Programme on that basis. With Georgia withdrawing from CIS, a special place should be identified for it to participate. The second issue relates to dual participation, as is the case for Chile and Mexico and Egypt and the Sudan. As regards the latter, it is proposed that the African Development Bank, ESCWA and the Global Office develop a mechanism to avoid duplication of resources, efforts and data sets. Data provided by the two countries should serve

both the African and the Western Asian regional programmes. As for Chile and Mexico, the decision will rest with the countries concerned.

VIII. Points for discussion

52. **The Commission is requested to review and comment on:**

(a) **The objectives of the 2011 round;**

(b) **The new orientations and the envisioned innovations and improvements;**

(c) **The issues related to country participation;**

(d) **The status of preparations so far.**

53. **The Commission is also requested to provide further guidance on the workplan and the timetable of the International Comparison Programme.**

Annex I

International Comparison Programme Executive Board members

Norway, Statistics Norway, Director General (Chair)

African Development Bank, Statistics Department, Director

Asian Development Bank, Economics and Research Department, Chief Economist

Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistician

Brazil, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, President

Canada, Statistics Canada, Chief Statistician of Canada

China, National Bureau of Statistics, Commissioner

Commonwealth of Independent States, Inter-state Statistical Committee, Chairman

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Statistics and Economic Projections Division, Director

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Statistics Division, Chief

Statistical Office of the European Communities, External Cooperation, Communication and Key Indicators, Director

France, National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, Director General

India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Chief Statistician

International Monetary Fund, Statistics Department, Director

Mexico, National Institute for Statistics and Geography, President

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Statistics Directorate, Chief Statistician

Russian Federation, Federal State Statistics Service, Head

Saudi Arabia, Central Department of Statistics and Information, Director General

Senegal, National Agency for Statistics and Demography, Director General

South Africa, Statistics South Africa, Statistician General

Uganda, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Executive Director

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Office for National Statistics, National Statistician

United Nations, Statistics Division, Director

United States of America, Office of Management and Budget, Chief Statistician

World Bank, Development Data Group, Director

Annex II

International Comparison Programme Technical Advisory Group members

Erwin Diewert, Professor of Economics, University of British Colombia, Chair

Fred Vogel, Consultant, World Bank, Deputy Chair

Alan Heston, Professor, Centre for International Comparison, University of Pennsylvania

Angus Deaton, Professor of Economics and International Affairs, Princeton University

Bart Van Ark, Chief Economist, The Conference Board

Francette Koechlin, Statistics Directorate, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Jim Thomas, Bureau of Labor Statistics, USA

Kim Zieschang, Statistics Department, International Monetary Fund

Louis Marc Ducharme, Statistics Canada

Tom Langer, Statistics Norway

Luigi Biggeri, University of Florence

Martin Ravallion, Director of Research, World Bank

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula, International Comparison Programme Global Manager

Mick Silver, Statistics Department, International Monetary Fund

Paul Konijn, Eurostat

Paul McCarthy, Consultant, World Bank

Prasada Rao, Professor of Economics, University of Queensland

Sergey Sergeev, Statistics Austria

Annex III

International Comparison Programme representatives of the regional coordinating agencies and of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development-Statistical Office of the European Communities

Abdoulaye Adam, African Development Bank

Luc Mbong Mbong, African Development Bank

Chellam Palayandy, Asian Development Bank

Youri Ivanov, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Luis Gonzalez, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Ernestina Perez, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Sylvan Roberts, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Giovanni Savio, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Majed Skaini, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Paul Konijn, Statistical Office of the European Communities

Francette Koechlin, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Vasily Kouznetsov, Russian Federal State Statistics Service